

western cape scouter



March 2023



contents

Contents.....	2	1st Strand Cubs Recycle.....	26
RC's Reflections	2	1st Rocklands Activities	28
Editor's Desk.....	3	Jumanji the Next Level.....	29
Water Activity Licence Course.....	4	Outeniqua Founders Day	30
Pioneering Scoutcraft Course.....	6	Hawequas has a New Bakkie.....	32
Tonkin Trophy	7	Brownsea Ahoy!	33
Rayner Trophy.....	8	Hawequas Ablution Block.....	34
Rayner Trophy 1st Time Winner..	14	Swipe for Scouting.....	36
LifeSaver Badge Course	15	Champions for Nature	37
Meerkats at Kon-Tiki	16	Scout Log at Adventure	38
Yeboneer Training	18	Campsites of a Previous Era	46
Mountain Awareness Course.....	20	Springbok Scouts	48
Scouts at Kon-Tiki.....	21	Regional Contact List	48
Holiday Hike Programme.....	24		

regional commissioner's reflections



As I reflect on the status of the Region and I see the activity and actions in the stories included in this edition of Western Cape Scouting, I am delighted to be able to pass the Regional Commissioner baton over to Nimmy Abrahams our new Regional Commissioner knowing that we have a very passionate and committed cohort of Adult leaders and parent supporters across almost all Groups in the Region.

We have been able to implement the new structures, raise the profile of scouting by embracing the Purple brand throughout the Region and deliver a strong offering of events and courses for all members. I have been privileged to work with a Regional Leader team who bring very strong skill sets to their portfolio's and share the vision of a growing relevance for Scouting, a strong focus on fun and adventure in programmes and a passion to see all youth members develop their character, citizenship focus and enjoy the outdoors with healthy minds and bodies. Thank you all for being such a delightful and focussed team to work with.

On behalf of all the Region I congratulate Nimmy on his appointment and wish him all success and support going forward. I look forward to seeing the Region grow in numbers, both of Members and of Groups in current and new towns across the Western Cape.

Thank you again for all the support over the past 10+ years.

Paddy Milner - Regional Commissioner

editor's desk



We thank Paddy Milner for being the Regional Commissioner for over 10 years and for all the hard and incredible work that has been done in this period - also thanks to Annette, Paddy's wife who has endured many hours of Paddy in meetings and solving issues. Some key achievements have been:

1. Taking on the role of RC and implementing the Revit restructure.
2. Initiating the Scouting in Schools project which demanded many hours of work including negotiating with the Western Cape government.
3. Ensuring the Region was brought on to a sound financial basis.
4. Ensuring with Aussie Raad that all properties and other Regional facilities are attractive and well managed.
5. Ensuring along with Jenny Martin that Scout facilities have current leases and a strong relationship with CoCT (City of Cape Town).
6. Guiding strategies for growth and relevance of scouting and the awareness of the purple Scout brand.
7. Building a strong Regional Management Team.

We welcome Nimmy Abrahams as our new Regional Commissioner and wish him all the best.

I usually prefer shortish articles but I have made an exception to a stunning log that Keagan Coetzee, a 1st Durbanville Scout, kept while he was at the Senior Scout Adventure. Please take the time to read it.

As always, your Den, Pack, Troop, Crew and other "scouty" news is of interest to the Western Cape Scouter. Articles should be emailed or WhatsApped to me. Photos are best placed on a shared Google drive or emailed to me at nigel.forshaw@scouts.org.za. Please avoid sending pdfs and photos embedded in Word documents. The next closing date is 23 June 2023.

Nigel Forshaw - Editor Western Cape Scouter



water activity licence course



The Water Activity Licence course was held at the Sea Scout Base in Lakeside. 23 participants and 5 instructors arrived on the first day, excited to see what the sailing conditions would be like. After an introductory session, the participants were allocated to boats and instructors. The boats set off for a lovely introductory sail, with the wind playing ball and ending the day off with capsize drill.



On the second day, the participants learnt about pulling and were introduced to it practically, followed by some more sailing – this time the wind decided to present more realistic conditions and the boats handled well, with a few capsize and broaches observed.

The second weekend followed a similar format to the first weekend, where skills were built on and perfected following the previous weekend's lessons. The Sunday ended with assessments whereafter the participants were awarded course completion certificates at the closing parade. Well done to the participants for putting the best foot forward and setting an incredibly high standard of seamanship and theoretical knowledge. Here is to many safe water activities and passing on the skills to the next generation.

Special thanks to the following members:

- The Sea Scout Base for the use of their facility.
- Stef and Julie from the Sea Scout Base for providing "restaurant" grade catering for the course.
- The instructors, namely: David Bosch, Wayne Pellew, Antonio Matthews, Kyle Sasman, Steven Medcalf and guest session presenters, namely: Daniel Skriker and James Stewart – thanks for the high standard of tuition and seamanship standards that you maintained.
- The Safety boat, namely: Gilly Sasman. Thanks for providing the boats and your services.

We appreciate all the hard work and dedication all of the staff members provided to make a successful course.

Craig Burchell-Burger - Regional Coordinator Water Activities and Course Leader





pioneering scoutcraft course



The 2023 Pioneering Scoutcraft Badge course held in January was a great success. Over 80 scouts participated in the course, which focused on basic knot tying skills and small construction projects. Scouts put their skills into practice by building bridges over a canal and constructing camp gadgets, demonstrating their knowledge and teamwork. I am proud to have awarded 85 badges to those who successfully completed the course. I would like to extend my congratulations to all the scouts who earned their badge, and express my gratitude to all the staff who made this course possible. I hope scouts are able to use the skills they learnt in their patrols at home, and even attend the interest course at a later stage.

Daniel le Jeune - Troop Scouter 1st Claremont and Course Leader



tonkin trophy

There was much rejoicing when it was announced that the 1st Durbanville Scout Group had won the sought after Tonkin Trophy at the annual Founder's Day celebrations at Gilwood scout training centre in Parow on Sunday, 19 February 2023.



The Tonkin Trophy for scouting excellence is awarded to the top Scout group in the Western Cape Region. It takes into account the successes of all the branches of a Scout group, namely the Meerkats, Cubs, Scouts and Rovers in order to determine the best all round scout group.

1st Durbanville also excelled in the annual Star Awards which is a management and evaluation system used to recognise Scout Troops and Patrols, Cub Packs, Meerkat Dens and Rover Crews who are meeting the aims of Scouts South Africa.

The 1st Durbanville Scout Troop, Cub Pack, Rover Crew and Meerkat Den all received gold Star Awards. Three of our Scout Patrols received gold and three received silver Star Awards.

Ursula Wilbraham - 1st Durbanville Committee Member



Ed. Full Group positions for the Tonkin Trophy 2022 were 1st Durbanville, 2nd Bergvliet, 1st Muizenberg, 6th Rondebosch, 1st Claremont, 2nd Plumstead, 1st Bergvliet, 2nd Fish Hoek, 1st Somerset West and 2nd Somerset West



rayner trophy



The 2023 edition of The Rayner Trophy was held in the Hottentots Holland Nature Reserve on 04 and 05 March. 32 teams and the Judge and Staff contingent of 29 adults made their way from Nuweberg Forestry Station to the overnight stop at Landdroskop hut via the Jeep Track. On Sunday the competition followed the Sphinx trail back to Nuweberg.

Mercifully, the unseasonably high rainfall that was forecast for the weekend did not materialise. There was however just enough rainfall to test scouts' weatherproofing skills but thankfully it did not mar the event.



Both days began with code deciphering. Traditional scouting skills including First Aid, Knotting, Navigation and Observation were evaluated. The ability to estimate height, weight, sunset, distance and time was a feature of this year's competition. Spare time activities included making a patrol pennant, carving and using a pair of chopsticks, plotting bases visited on a map and making a fuzz stick.

1st Muizenberg A won by a healthy margin, followed by 1st Durbanville A in second place and 2nd Fish Hoek A in third place.

Many thanks to the Judges and Staff for their time and expertise.

We are indebted to CapeNature for making the venue available and for the use of an office on Sunday afternoon.

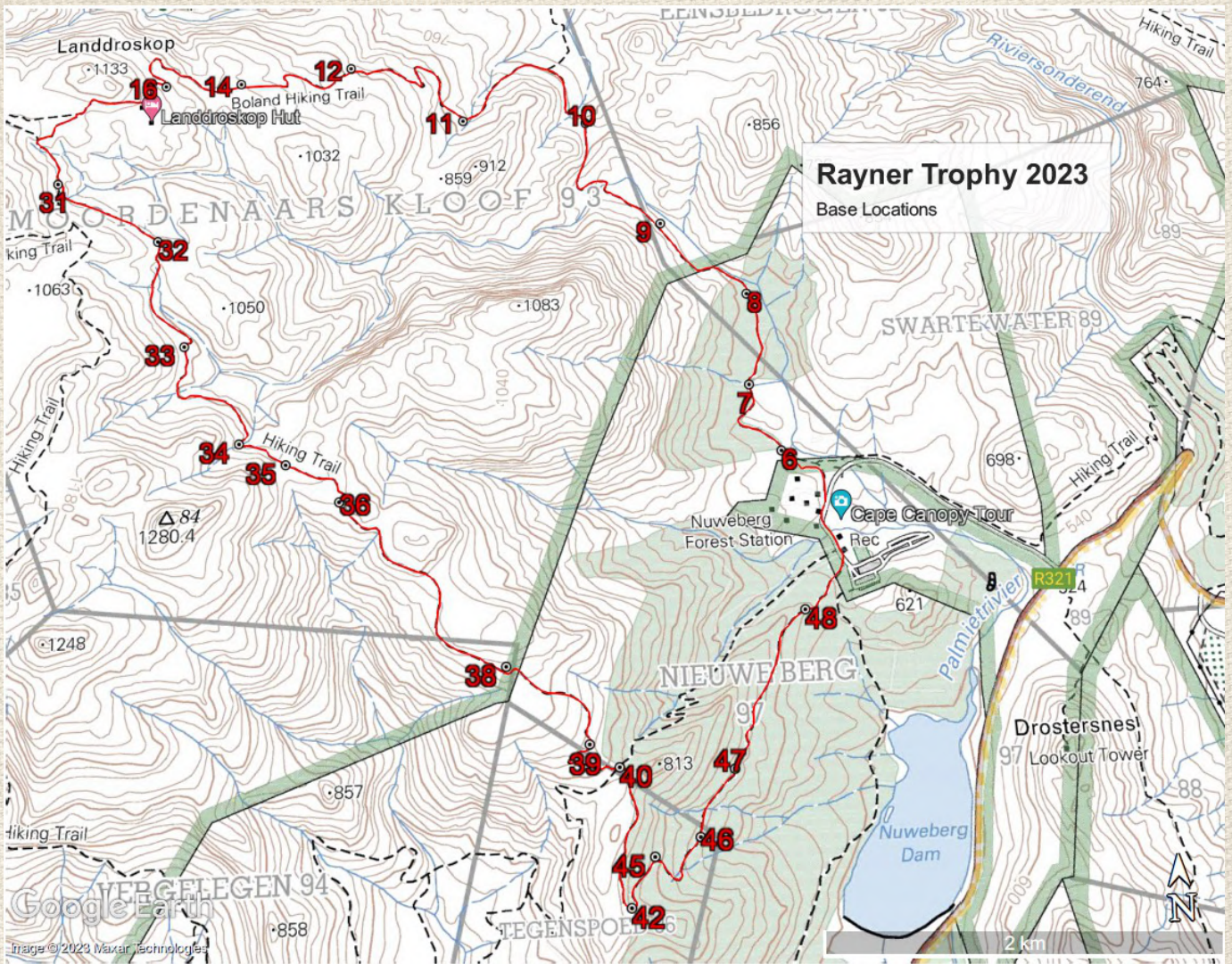
Sean Wilbraham - Rayner Chief Judge.



Ed. We are deeply appreciative of all the judges who assisted at the Rayner. They are not named and it cost petrol money to get to the Rayner. Two judges even had to assist in logistics which meant they had to go home on Saturday night and yet returned on Sunday. Many, many thanks to the judges. The venue, along with the scenery was spectacular, the weather was mostly kind to the Rayner.



Ed. A very well known, fantastic and willing judge saw it fit to burn a completed mark sheet so that the test had to be abandoned. This was a Rayner first. For the physicists this is perhaps not as bad as it sounds because the energy/matter of the universe is constant and it is theoretically possible to gather all the emitted heat, light, smoke, ash, etc. to reconstitute the mark sheet.



POSITION	TEAM NO	TEAM NAME	MARK
1	16	1st Muizenberg A	380
2	10	1st Durbanville A	368
3	05	2nd Fish Hoek A	351
4	01	2nd Bergvliet	324
5	26	6th Rondebosch	318
6	17	1st Bergvliet A	317
7	32	9th/16th Cape Town	314
8	02	1st Durbanville B	313
9	20	1st Bergvliet B	298
10	22	1st Fish Hoek Ranger Guides	291
11	18	1st Muizenberg B	289
12	03	1st Strand	287
13	04	1st Claremont A	285
14	12	1st Pinelands A	282
15	13	1st Claremont B	273
16	15	1st Pinelands B	271
17	06	4th Claremont	250
18	28	2nd Kenridge	243
19	27	1st Somerset West B	229
19	21	2nd Hout Bay A	229
21	14	1st George B	227
22	31	2nd Hout Bay D	222
23	11	1st George A	215
24	29	1st Somerset West A	213
25	23	1st Bothasig	210
26	25	1st Belvedere	209
27	09	1st Blaauwberg	203
28	19	2nd Plumstead	202
29	30	2nd Hout Bay C	198
30	08	1st Meadowridge	182
31	24	2nd Hout Bay B	172
32	07	1st Bellville South	160



We started Saturday in high spirits, with everyone in the car going over all the information that would likely be in the competition, and when we arrived, we greeted all the friends we knew.

As soon as the competition started we were ready, having memorized all the codes and having all information on hand, we quickly finished the first code, pushing us ahead of the pack.

Having everyone in the patrol be fit was a huge help, so we had no rush to get to any base.

As every base went by, we quickly realised that this was going to be a good year for us, as we knew everything.

At the overnight spot, we did all our STA's and overnight bases, and settled down for a prepared, but unprepared night of wet sleep (though some of us didn't get much).

In the morning we got our full dose of protein for breakfast and continued on our way. The bases were a little more time consuming this time, but we still managed to stick to the front and do all of them. We were doing well, but we knew competition was tough this year, so we didn't keep our hopes too high.

When we got to the end, we finally rested and waited in anticipation. After getting one extra mark, I was worried for the final result. As we all lined up, I heard them counting down from 10th place to 4th place. When I didn't hear our team, I was devastated and felt defeated. Then they started announcing the 3rd to 1st participants separately, I had already given up, so it took me a solid 3 seconds, and frantic looking about to realize my team had won.

I definitely, definitely did not cry.

Kaelan Lamberth - Patrol Leader 1st Muizenberg



rayner trophy 1st time winner

This year's Rayner Trophy Competition was held in the Hottentots Holland Mountains and started at Nuweberg and took the Scouts to Landdroskop Hut where they spent the night. They then walked down the Sphinx Trail back to Nuweberg. Bad weather was an issue, but the Scouts were well prepared to counter rain and were in high spirits. The scenery in those mountains is spectacular. This year's entry of 32 teams was the highest number of teams that have taken part in years.

This year was an historic moment for 1st Muizenberg, as our Patrol managed to win the coveted Trophy for the first time since its inception in the fifties. Our Patrol Leader, Kaelan Lamberth, says "I was expecting to do well, but after not hearing our team in the 10th to 4th position, I felt defeated. When they announced number 16 as the winning team it took me a solid 3 seconds to understand that meant us. I was overwhelmed with surprise and joy. I definitely did not cry!"

Our Troop Scouter David Bosch says, "It was an immensely proud moment to see the last 4 years of skills development, knowledge transfer and participation, culminate in 1st Muizenberg winning the Rayner Trophy for the first time in the history of the competition."



The Trophy has been brought home for the year and sits proudly on the walls of the Sea Scout Base for all to see. A wonderful moment in time for an old Sea Scout Group.

Thank you very much to Sean Wilbraham and the rest of his team for an excellent competition. Our Scouts thoroughly enjoyed it!

Angela Lee-Wright - Scout Group Leader 1st Muizenberg

lifesaver badge course

Two years ago I was asked to staff the Lifesaver Interest Course and it has been awesome experience. The course entails two days of swimming and learning different rescue techniques so that the



scouts who attend are equipped with the abilities to help someone in need. From this course you can expect to take away a new respect for the sea, some newly required first aid skills, memories to treasure and that dragging a friend through the water is MUCH harder than it looks. All of the activities that are completed, are rescue applicable in a realistic rescue situation. Some revolve more around fitness whilst others revolve around friendly competition

that becomes quite entertaining when tensions rise between the scouts. The end of each day is always fun as everyone goes home exhausted, but they know they learnt a lot.

Kate Biggs - Albatross Patrol Leader 1st Blaauwberg



meerkats at kon-tiki

Our annual Meerkat Kon-Tiki event attracted around 50 attendees in 2022, but this year, there were an incredible 115 Meerkats and Teddies there from all over the Western Cape. The following Dens attended: Durbanville/Kraaifontein, 1st Fish Hoek Teddies, 1st Claremont, 4th Claremont/Fernwood, 2nd Bergvliet, 1st Darling, 1st Somerset West, 1st Bergvliet Teddies, 6th Rondebosch, 1st Durbanville and 1st Muizenberg. It was a day filled with fun and laughter.

The Meerkat Kon-Tiki event was officially opened with the display of pink and blue smoke bombs that were beautifully merged into purple by the gentle breeze.

We included the comic theme by having the Meerkats create team flags with comic motifs. Each Meerkat contributed something to the flag so this activity needed amazing teamwork. After we made our flags the games began. We played 2 action-packed games with water and recycling and we heard a tale about 'Glug and the water cycle'. We had a delicious snack of watermelon, popcorn, and juice.

But when the Meerkats had to construct rafts out of recycled items, the real fun started!



It was obvious that the bigger the better approach was taken for this enormous assignment and rafts were built. Rafts were tested in the vlei and were launched approximately 3 metres from the shore and then hauled back. Everyone was ecstatic but not surprised when they saw them float.

In Anmari's words: "My Mr Fish drowned on my raft but I loved making the flags.

The games were cool, one was tiring and the cup one was silly and funny" and Lyra said "it was fun, I liked the flag and the rafts. I like building stuff!"

The Imperial Yacht Club and Cape Peninsula Canoe Club's facilities were lovely and secure and the Meerkat Kon-Tiki team appreciates and thanks them for the use of the facilities there.

Without the Kon-Tiki staff working behind the scenes, we would not have had such a wonderful event. We appreciate all of your valuable time and effort.

The Scouters, parents and amazing Meerkats deserve the most praise for making our Kon-Tiki a fun event to remember for a very long time.

Marihett Bredenkamp - Den Scouter 1st Muizenberg and Kon-Tiki Team





yeboneer training

SiS the story

Scouting in Schools started at the end of 2016, a small team was tasked to start scout groups linked to schools as part of the Western Cape Government's After School Game Changer Programme.

The programme has since then grown and developed into a bespoke scout programme presented to schools across the Western Cape metro, this year we celebrate our expansion into the Southern Cape Region. We welcome our Implementing Partner, Womb to Tomb Development Centre which is based in George.

Womb to Tomb Development Centre introduces an additional 8 schools and 25 Scout Yeboneers. We are confident that this is the start of Scouting history in the Southern Cape.

The Scouting in Schools Programme now boasts a team of 6 Mentors with 150 Scout Yeboneers and 2880 Scouts.

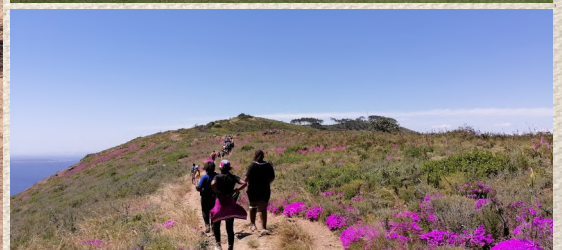
We acknowledge all our supporters, partners, funders, volunteers who have been assisting in their various capacities and allowing us to grow from strength to strength. Thank you from the Western Cape Scout Team.

Mentor and Yeboneer Training 23

Scouting in Schools has developed a partnership with the Western Cape Government's Youth and After School Programme Office. The integrated programme develops young people between the ages of 18 and 25 personally and professionally to help them land their next opportunity, be it work or study.

The Training we offer prepares our mentors to guide and assist Yeboneers during their journey as they present the SiS challenge badge programme. Strongly anchored and guided by the promise, law and the patrol system we present scouting exactly as BP had intended.

This year we trained 129 Yeboneers at the Hawequas Adventure Centre in Wellington and a further 25 Yeboneers in George. Scouts have always been proud of our volunteer network and commitment. Thank you to our training volunteer team!



T2 and T3 hike programme

Exciting, stimulating outdoor programmes is one of the things that defines scouting and Scouting in Schools too! We work hard to secure funding to provide opportunities to all our Scouts be it hiking or camping. We have secured funding to take scouts in their second year on the programme who have achieved 3 of the 4 challenge badges. This is exciting as many of our scouts have never hiked before and for some they have never been out of their community.

We are excited to put out a call for volunteers to assist with these hikes which will happen in terms 2 and 3 over weekends and holidays. These hikes will start and end at our Appleton Campsite on Signal hill.

To raise your hand and form part of our team please email me at ahmad.solomon@scouts.org.za

Ahmad Solomon - Scouting in Schools Project Leader



mountain awareness course

The Mountain Awareness course is an afternoon session for Scouts who are working towards the Springbok and Scouters who want to become more aware of key points when taking youth on hikes such as:

- Challenges and hazards out there
- Fire precautions
- Understanding the different kinds of maps that can be used
- Planning of hikes
- Hike leadership
- Contents of a day and overnight pack along with snacks and food
- Emergency procedures in case of an incident.

The course was honoured to be visited by the Chief Commissioner, Gary Pienaar and the Chair: National Scout Programme, Theo Rijs. It was great to listen to what Gary and Theo had to say and for the course to be able to meet them. Thanks for the visit.

David Knight and Jonathan Webb are once again kindly assisted at the course for which they are thanked.

Nigel Forshaw - Course Leader



scouts at kon-tiki



Everyone can agree that this year's Kon-Tiki was incredible, and I'm so glad to have had the privilege of being the raft patrol leader for our troop. After weeks of preparations, Kon-Tiki 2023 started promptly at 3pm on Friday. From the beginning of the construction, the Kon-Tiki energy could be felt everywhere around the Sea Scout Base, and it didn't stop until the end of the competition.

After many lashings and even more fun, we made a raft of an

extremely high standard. We waved goodbye to our fringe teams and began our 24 hours on the water. We had loads of fun cooking and singing together around our tiny kitchen table and cooked one of the best stews we had ever tasted. Throughout the night, we built mini catapults, sewed stuffed kittens, drew comics, and designed Garfield models. In the morning, we went around to all the other rafts to collect decorated bottle caps for an STA, which gave us a chance to say "hi" to friends we already knew from other troops and create new friendships too. We took 3rd place in the tender race thanks to Sofie and Luke's remarkable rowing skills and then returned to the land to disassemble our raft.

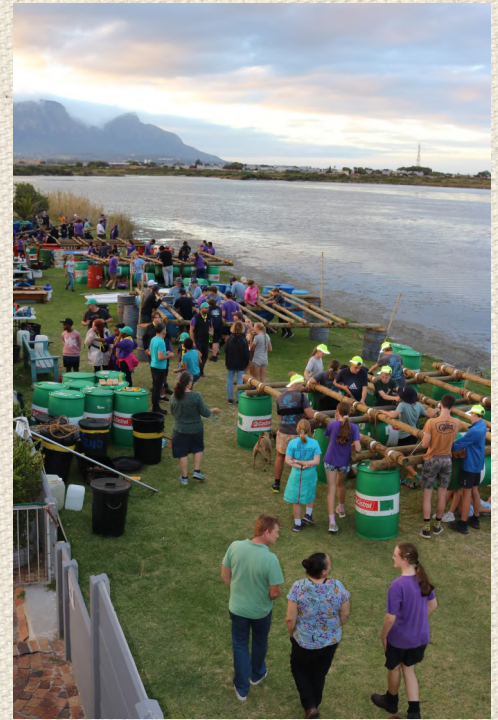


Kon-Tiki was not only a fun adventure but also provided us with valuable lessons in teamwork, problem-solving, and perseverance. We weren't expecting any prizes at the closing parade, so we were in complete disbelief when we got 2nd place for STAs, 3rd for cooking and 3rd place overall. It's the best we have ever placed in the history of our troop, so I couldn't have been prouder of my team. Kon-Tiki 2023 was a huge success and a memorable experience for all of us.

We returned home tired but overjoyed about what we had accomplished. It was definitely an unforgettable weekend!

Christina Papavlachopoulou - Kon-Tiki Patrol Leader 6th Rondebosch

POSITION	TEAM NO	TEAM NAME	MARK
1	8	1st Bergvliet	599
2	3	1st Durbanville	578
3	23	6th Rondebosch	567
4	18	2nd Bergvliet	563
5	7	1st Camps Bay	552
6	17	Fish Hoek Rangers and Guides	541
7	1	Rondebosch Rangers	536
8	11	2nd Plumstead	526
9	22	1st Muizenberg	505
10	13	2nd Hout Bay	504
11	4	2nd Kenridge	495
11	9	1st Meadowridge	495
13	26	1st Hermanus	491
13	27	3rd Pinelands	491
15	6	1st Naruna/Constantia	488
16	20	1st Durbanville/Kraaifontein	469
17	10	De Grendal Rangers	464
18	14	Cape Peninsula Rangers and Guides	458
19	28	1st Plumstead	439
20	19	1st Fish Hoek	435
21	15	1st Somerset West	305





holiday hike programme

The Department of Cultural Affairs and Sport and Scouts SA Western Cape recently ran the Holiday Hike Programme for the second year running. There were 6 Teams, 5 Clusters, 15 hikes, 22 youth leaders and 364 learners. Boys and girls from Khayelitsha, Gugulethu, Crossroads and Mitchells Plain took part. The programme was presented over four days. Three days were taken up presenting sessions in the local communities. The hike day started at Appleton Scout Camp and showed off some of Cape Town most iconic sights. The scenic hike took the group from the base at Appleton Scout Adventure Camp towards the



base of Lions Head.



Along the way stories of the early Muslims in the Cape were told and their shrines pointed out, the more famous one being that of the late Shaykh Mohamad Hassen Ghaibie Shah.

Stories of van Hunks and the devil captured the attention of many of the learners while the discovery of gold on Lions head in 1897 left many of them dreaming of one day coming back to find more gold. Table Mountain and Devils Peak formed the perfect

backdrop with many children seeing the mountain for the first time. The learners saw Robben Island, although some thought it was Australia and were excited to see the island where the late Nelson Mandela was incarcerated.

Along the way back various rock and rock formations were pointed out and as they passed the Appleton campsite they listened with amazement when they saw a World War II top secret radar station hunting for submarines. The Signal Hill lookout point captured the attention of the learners with paragliders launching one after the other on clear days. Spectacular views of the harbour, the City Bowl, Victoria and Alfred Waterfront and the Cape Town Stadium were noted. The learners enjoyed lunch at the lookout on Signal Hill and a well-deserved break back at Appleton before heading back home.

Ahmad Solomon - Scouting in Schools Project Leader





1st strand cubs recycle



The whole pack took on the recycling badge this term with various activities being worked into our weekly programme.

The cubs spent a creative Friday afternoon planning and constructing musical instruments from items that are often thrown away.

Every week the cubs collected and brought their recycling to the meeting to be sorted until we had enough to take to a recycling centre.

We discovered why it is important to sort recycling into categories and learnt

about the recycling symbol on packaging and what the numbers mean.

We had an awesome time making billy cans and firelighters by recycling tins, toilet rolls, newspaper and wax.

We also used (dry) tea bags with paraffin to make a different style firelighter. The cubs took these home and were encouraged to help their parents with a braai.

Later in the term we used tuna tin buddy burners and billy can cookers to make flapjacks. An upside down tin was used as the cooking surface and we were quite surprised how well it worked.

A highlight of the term was a visit to a company called Dartpac, based in Somerset West. They manufacture disposable cups and cup holders. The kind found in your favourite coffee shops.

Dartpac welcomed the pack enthusiastically and provided an enlightening discussion on compostable materials and sustainability.



We were then guided on a tour around the factory. They use compostable raw materials to form the cups and fibre pulp to form the cup lids. The raw material used for the cup holders consists of waste cut offs from the cup forming process, additional offcuts and waste from other cardboard and newspapers they bring in. This raw material is then mixed with water to become pulp and is then formed by huge machines into the finished product.



The cubs gasped in amazement watching the

machines dip into the pulp and flip the wet products into the drying process or seeing the formed cups zooming through the pipes to the next stage of the process.

The cubs had a memorable and valuable experience at Dartpac. They saw sustainable manufacturing which really tied together this term's theme of recycling.

Alex Buys - 1st Strand Assistant Pack Scouter



1st rocklands activities

A few interesting things have happened at the 1st Rocklands Group in Mitchells Plain. We started our year off with our monthly fun day. The last Friday of each month is when we have a special event. Last month we had a crazy hat day and will be continuing these events.



We took part in the Litter Less Campaign at Westridge Gardens and is an ongoing campaign in partnership with the City of Cape Town Recreation and Parks Department.

We are proud to have taken part in this years Kon-Tiki, where 1st Rocklands Cubs came in 10th place.

These are some of the fun things we have been up to and we have so much more planned for this year.



Annssley Spies - District Commissioner Mitchells Plain



jumanji the next level



The 2023 cub camp was based on "Jumanji The Next Level". 1st and 4th Claremont were the heroes who went into Jumanji and saved it. We stayed in the game for two nights.

We were given a riddle "Return the jewels and lift the curse, in order to leave the game save Jumanji and call out its name" and then more clues along the way.



We made nets to catch the beast. Each of 6 sixes made a poster (in hieroglyphics). These were displayed on the wall.

The following day we were woken by scouts bashing pots and pans together. We had to do PT (physical torture): squats, pushups, high knees and butt kicks. On the run, we were chased by baboons.

Half of each six went into a circle blindfolded. The others directed them to get the correct colour balls. We investigated 6 different simple machines, constructed catapults to put out a fire, ran with water on our head to fill buckets, swam creating a whirlpool, enjoyed a slip-n-slide and wrapped each other in toilet paper to make mummies.

Sunday morning after PT, we used our nets to catch things in the river. Camp ended with the closing ceremony.

Lucy du Toit - Pack Scouter 1st Claremont



outeniqua founders day



On Saturday the 25 February 2023 the Outeniqua district converged on the sleepy town of Sedgefield on the Garden Route to participate in what we are hoping will become an annual event.

The day kicked off at 9.30am with a Scouts Own led by Deena-Rae Colloty of 1st Sedgefield. All branches of the movement were represented, including Meercats, Cubs, Scouts, and Rovers.

At 10.00am everyone lined up and proceeded from the Lions Club Hall on the Village Green to our starting point, where the local fire department waited to escort us through the town with two of their fire trucks, sirens blaring. Flag bearers from 1st Mossel Bay Sea Scouts, 1st Sedgefield Meerkats, 1st Sedgefield Cubs, 1st Sedgefield Scouts, 1st George Scouts, 1st Knysna Cubs and 1st Knysna Sea Scouts headed up the procession with our organisers Sandy Colloty (SGL 1st Sedgefield) and Kael Scanes (Outeniqua District Rovers) in the lead. They were followed in order by

the Meerkats, Cubs, Scouts, and Scouters from the district. 20 SAPS recruits acted as marshals for the parade and we were followed through the town by a cavalcade of police and traffic vehicles.



The route took us from the Village Green up to the Main Road bordering the N2. We then walked along Main Road to the end of the shopping district and then made a left turn past the library and back to the Village Green. The locals came out in force to take photos and cheer us all on, with a reporter from the local Edge newspaper taking some pics.

Once we had arrived



back at the hall a brief ceremony was held and awards were handed out. A Scouts Thank You pin was awarded to the Captain of the Sedgefield Fire department for always helping us when asked. Deena-Rae Colloty was awarded her PLTU certificate and badge by the very proud Troop Scouter Kevin Scanes.

A huge thank you to our DC, Pat Farnham, who travelled nearly 100km

to be with us on the day, as well as the Scouts and Scouters from across the District who made the trip to our little town. All counted, we had over 80 uniformed members as well as parents and some ex-Scouts and Scouters that joined in the parade. Unfortunately, due to a scheduling conflict, 1st Plettenberg Bay couldn't join us this year, but we hope they will be able to make it next year.



Brett Burgell (Phoenix) - Assistant Troop Scouter 1st Sedgefield

hawequas has a new bakkie

The Hawequas Mahindra Bolero will be 9 years old in May and with over 300,000km on the clock Maraai needs to rest. We started looking at various options to get a new bakkie and required specification which were:

- A dropside bakkie
- Be able to carry at least a one ton load
- Have good ground clearance
- Big wheels and
- A diesel engine.



Many options were considered from used bakkies to various makes and the funding we had available and could raise.

Our good friend to scouting, Dale Kushner, owner of Benba Motors in Goodwood, who are Mahindra agents, made an offer of a brand new Mahindra Hawk Pick Up. This made the most financial sense and we put out an appeal for funds which started coming in and then when we published what we were getting a few big funders stepped in. Many thanks to these folk! The new Mahindra is a real work horse which we hope will give us many safe kilometres.

We still need further funding and donations can be deposited in the Western Cape bank account – become a Hawequas donor!

Kuba Miszewski - Hawequas Scout Adventure Centre Manager



brownsea ahoy!

To celebrate Baden-Powell's Birthday, the Meerkats at 1st Claremont re-enacted the first camp in 1907 on Brownsea Island. They made tents, went "fishing" (being rewarded with marshmallow dinosaurs) and searched for fresh fruit in the trees, thrown on the island by "passing boats".

We did some research and found that airplanes only came to England later that decade. Our scouts and ex-Scout dads were very handy at doing the lashings for the poles.

Everyone admired the historical items on show, going back to the founding of 1st Claremont in 1908. What a great meeting!

Judith Bishop - Den Scouter 1st Claremont



new hawequas ablution block

The Terrace Campsites have had an unfinished ablution block shell for a number of years. There were no plans submitted for this building, as was the case with many buildings at Hawequas. After a four year process, plans for all buildings at Hawequas were updated and approved by the Drakenstein Municipality . We finally received approval in November and fast forwarded a plan to start construction. As this is a major capital project we gained approval from the National Finance Committee.

With all blocks ticked, we started construction in February. This involved some demolition and excavations. The new building will have two lady's toilets and two showers as well as hand basins etc. The men's toilets will be similar with the addition of urinals. There will be hot water from gas geysers. The toilets that we have installed are eco-friendly, self-composting type toilets made by Enviro Loo. This will save us money in years to come as there is no septic/conservancy tank to be pumped out.

There is an open kitchen area with sinks and a big braai fireplace. The roof has been extended right across the whole building giving a lovely under cover activity area. The roof had to be re-engineered as there was not enough fall and the new roof covering is of the Klip-Lok type with no nails going through the roof sheets.

We have been extremely fortunate to have had 21,000 bricks donated by Claytile Bricks and a solar lighting system donated by a very kind donor.

This is an exciting addition to the offering at Hawequas making the Terrace Campsites far more useable. We look forward to hosting you on the Terraces!

Kuba Miszewski - Hawequas Scout Adventure Centre Manager

PS. No firewood should be brought to Hawequas because of the invasive Shot Hole Borer Beetle which has been documented in Cape Town and leaves behind a fungus which can kill trees. Please bring eco logs, charcoal or briquettes.





swipe for scouting

SCOUTS South Africa is a registered beneficiary of the **MySchool MyVillage MyPlanet** rewards programme. At no additional cost to yourself you could help us raise funds to grow and sustain the Scout Movement and its beneficiaries..

- Apply for a card and make SSA your beneficiary
- Keep you current beneficiary and just add SSA as an additional one. You can have up to three beneficiaries per card.
- Don't want an additional card, get the App on your phone!



**MySchool
MyVillage
MyPlanet**



MySchool MyVillage MyPlanet, South Africa's biggest community-based fundraising programme raises funds for schools, charities and animal welfare organisations. Every time you swipe your card at Woolworths or any of their partners, they make a donation on your behalf to the school or cause you choose at no cost to you!

Four great reasons to become a supporter

1. Raise funds for a cause that is close to your heart, without it costing you a cent.

2. Over 1500

partner stores where you can use your card to raise funds.

3. You benefit too: get instant savings of at least 10% on over 1000 items with Woolworths WRewards.

4. You have the power to choose: select up to three schools and/or charities.

Support SSA and help a child succeed!

Ed. See <https://www.scouts.org.za/2023/02/18/myschool-myvillage-myplanet-ssa/> for more information. Reproduced here in part with kind permission from Scouts SA.

champions for nature national challenge 2023



Nature, Biodiversity, and Better Choices

Nature is very relevant and attractive for young people all over the world for leisure, a learning space, cultural exploration, and spiritual development. Currently, each individual shares this planet with thirty million other species.

The Champions for Nature Challenge takes young people on a journey to discover and recognise the importance of biodiversity for all living beings, helping youth to connect with nature while engaging in projects to protect and improve our relationship with the natural world.

Why is the Champions for Nature Challenge important?

The Champions for Nature Challenge will help young people to understand how to make an impact on the environment through responsible consumption, and how to make better choices and develop sustainable habits and behaviours. The Champions for Nature Challenge is part of World Scouting's Earth Tribe learning paths of Nature and Biodiversity.



What is the Champions for Nature Challenge?

The Champions for Nature Challenge is a learning opportunity developed under the Better World Framework and Scouts for SDGs mobilisation in partnership with WWF. The Challenge encourages young people to discover more about nature, biodiversity, and sustainable lifestyles, enabling youth to take concrete actions for our planet. It also empowers young people to be active global citizens.

The Champions for Nature Challenge supports the development of a specific set of competencies in young people to adopt responsible behaviour towards the environment connected to the Earth Tribe learning paths of Better Choices, and Nature and Biodiversity.

This set of competencies is complementary to many others that Scouting recognises, as well as other recognized by other institutions aligned with Education for Sustainable Development Goals.

By taking up the Champions for Nature Challenge, young people develop their knowledge, skills, and attitudes essential for achieving Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) be part of a global youth movement for environmental action.

This Challenge is designed for all young people from seven years and above, eager to discover new ways to advocate and contribute to the protection of nature and develop new consumption habits that actively contribute to protecting our natural resources. In South Africa we added a set of actions for our younger branch – the Meerkats – too. The Champions for Nature Challenge offers meaningful content and activities for each age range and capacities.

Ed. See <https://www.scouts.org.za/members/better-world-framework/champions-for-nature-2023/> for more information. Reproduced in part here with kind permission from Scouts SA.

scout log at adventure



I recently completed the 2022 Cederberg Senior Scout Adventure which took place from 15 to 23 December 2022. I recorded my experiences on the trail in order to share some of the highlights and possibly to excite any future participants.

We completed the Southern Peaks clockwise route, which earned us the Xtreme Award badge as it is the most difficult of the three itineraries even though Sneeuwberg peak (the highest peak in the Cederberg) was removed from our itinerary due to a recent fire.

As a result of events during the 2016 Cederberg Adventure, we weren't allowed to use any flame to cook or heat our food, so we mostly received canned food which added more weight to our backpacks.

Our Patrol, number 22, consisted of: Dylan Cloete (Ranger - DK), Hannah Murphy (PL - 1st Durbanville), Matthew Stead (APL - 1st Durbanville), Zoey le Roux (1st Durbanville), Daniel Wilbraham (1st Durbanville), Keagan Coetzee (1st Durbanville), Lena Wiroth (9th/16th Cape Town), Menrad Holm (9th/16th Cape Town), Fulufhelo Mulaudzi (1st Midrand) and Dean Roberts (1st Midrand).

DAY 1: The busses departed from Cape Town and transported the majority of the scouts. I travelled privately and arrived at the camp headquarters at Keurbos a few minutes before the busses did. The area looked empty, but tents had been set up for staff, the first-aid base and also for a tuckshop. Soon the rest of the patrol arrived and we signed in and waited for the opening ceremony. It was hot and everyone was sweating... there was barely a cloud in sight. After the opening ceremony, we handed in our uniforms and any extra kit we no longer wanted to carry. It was now 11h31. We received our rations for the next four days and divided them between the patrol members. I carried Muesli, powdered milk, and a few cans.

Some of us went to swim in the nearby river to cool off since we would only be transported to our first base much later. At 15h45, we carried our packs to the warehouse where we strapped them on tops of Jeeps which would transport us for the next two hours from Keurbos HQ to Langkloof where we would be doing the 4x4 activity. After 30 minutes of driving, it suddenly started raining heavily and our packs, which were strapped to the roof of the Jeep, got soaked! Five of our patrol members were travelling in another Jeep which overheated thereby giving them a chance to store their bags inside the car. We arrived at the 4x4 activity centre sometime between 18h30 and 19h30 while the rain was still pouring. We helped the staff build a shelter once the rain had died down, made supper which consisted of Smash mash and corned beef and went to sleep at around 22h00. Some of us slept in our makeshift shelters of tarps and groundsheets while others slept in a nearby cave.

DAY 2: We woke up at 06h00, packed up and had breakfast which consisted of bland oats with a bit of peanut butter to add flavour. Next we did the 4x4 activity. We learnt how to fix a tyre puncture and a radiator. Some of us fixed a puncture on a spare tyre. We also learnt the uses of a winch and how a 4x4 works, among other things, before going on a 4x4 drive. We got stuck, but it was fun! Soon we had to

pack our bags and start the hike to Gabriel's Pass at the base of Wolfberg Arch. We met a local at the Langkloof settlement who guided us to the path. We had some breaks along the trail and luckily the overcast weather allowed us to hike far and at a quick pace. After quite some time, we arrived at Gabriel's Pass at the base of Wolfberg Arch. We chose to continue hiking the extra 2km up to Wolfberg Arch even though we were only meant to do it the following day. At the top we met two of the staff members, one of which was Oliver Murphy, a 1st Durbanville Rover. In fact, two of the four staff members at Wolfberg Arch are currently 1st Durbanville Rovers. We told them we were a day early and would prefer to do the base activity the following morning. We walked up to the Arch, which had an amazing view, and were surrounded by mist a few minutes later. We did some exploring to find a suitable cave to sleep in. Our patrol split into three groups, each sleeping in a different cave. We relaxed for the remainder of the day, played cards and ate supper which consisted of rolls and canned viennas. Some of us slept in a flat area outside a small cave. When we went to sleep there was a light mist which we expected to go away, but instead it got worse and later in the night it started raining. A few of us moved into the cave and eventually we fell asleep.

DAY 3: We woke up cold at 06h00.

The survival bags that some of us had used had been filled with water and had soaked the sleeping bags. We put our stuff out to dry and went to meet Charles and Oliver at Wolfberg Arch to go hiking up to Wolfberg peak. After hiking up Wolfberg peak and down again, with a bit of rock climbing in between, we had an hour's break for breakfast which consisted of muesli and hydrated milk powder. The clouds cleared a bit and we had a nice view and some wind. After breakfast, we began the orienteering activity which involved walking around and

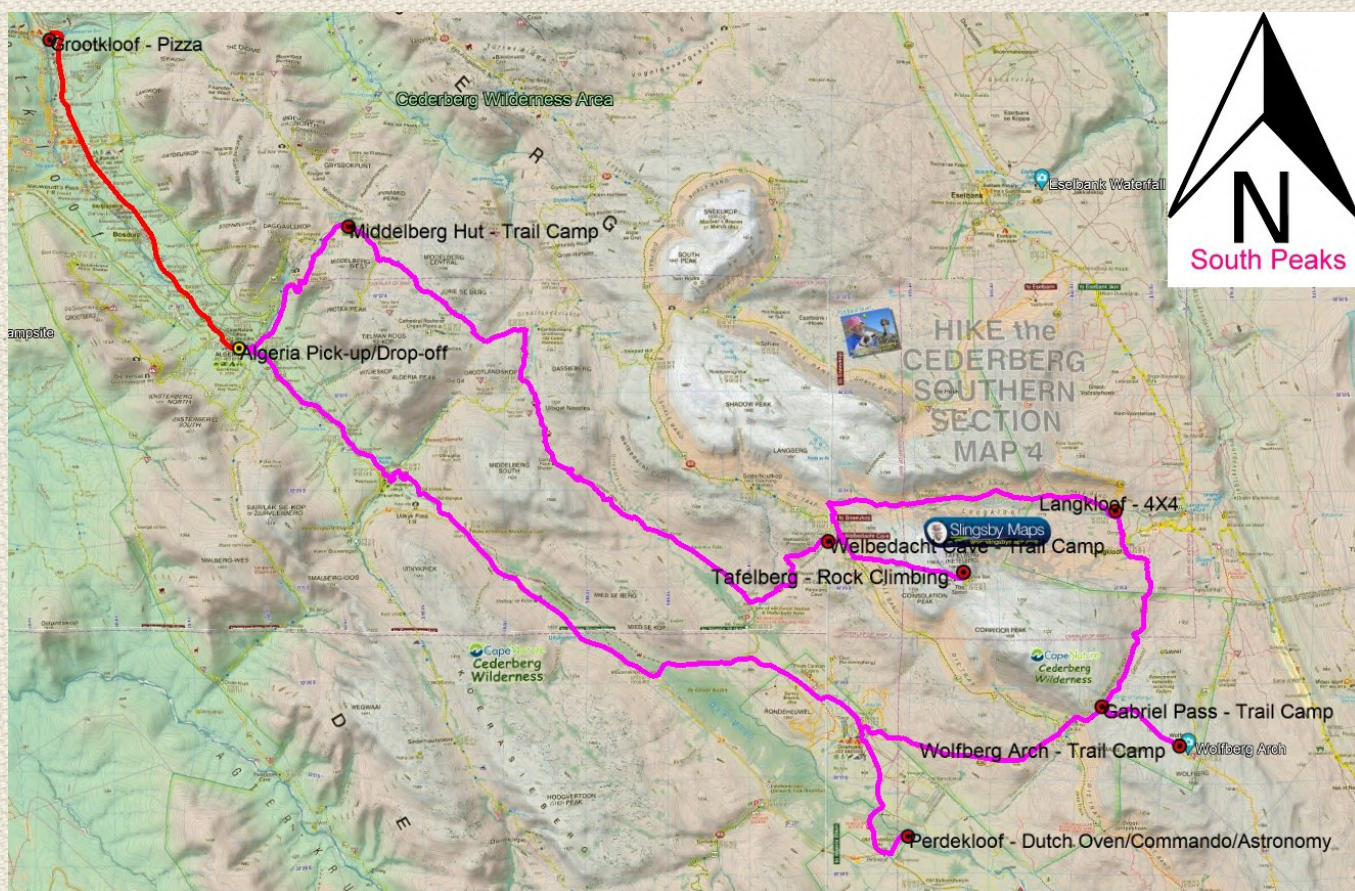


looking for pieces of paper cable-tied to rocks. We also saw a snake. After that most of us were tired, but we decided to continue hiking even though we were already a full day ahead. Before we left, Hannah realised that she was missing the map, so we hiked back to our cave and luckily it was still there. It took us about 40 minutes to hike down to Gabriel's Pass and there was a light drizzle along the way. We saw another patrol on our way down. We hiked up to a saddle where we stopped and had lunch at 13h00. It started raining, so we found a cave in which to store our bags. It soon flooded, but luckily our bags remained dry. We sheltered under a rock during the downpour.

At around 14h14 the rain died down and we continued hiking. There was a light drizzle from time to time. Some of us were getting tired and after a while and several breaks, we arrived at Driehoek. We decided that it would be a suitable overnight location with Perdekloof (our next activity centre) only a few kilometres away. At 18h03 we ate supper and then elected to take the quick walk to Perdekloof so that we could relax for the entire following day. We arrived at 19h45 and were allowed to sleep in the astronomy tent once the astronomy activity was over. Some of us went swimming in the river at around 20h20. Afterwards we went to the tuck shop, which was managed by Jonathan, and had a chat with him while eyeing the fridges full of delicious treats. At 21h34 we went back to the tent where we prepared our sleeping gear and went to sleep.

DAY 4: We woke up at 07h45 after a great sleep. I was surprised my legs weren't hurting after all the hiking we had done. We hung up our wet kit on some fallen trees so that it could dry in the sunlight. There was barely a cloud in sight. We saw Oliver and Aiden (staff from Wolfberg Arch) walking back from the tuck shop. They had hiked throughout the morning from Wolfberg Arch to Perdekloof to buy four Cokes, some gas and a wooden spoon! At 07h58 we ate breakfast which consisted of Weetabix and hydrated milk powder and then waited for our first activity to begin. Later on we went to the tuck shop to buy some snacks. At 10h50 we went to the Dutch oven base where we made cheese bread, chicken casserole and apple pie. All this was cooked in Dutch ovens! Needless to say, there were no leftovers. We cleaned the utensils before returning to our camp. Sometime later Zoey, Stead and I were sent to the commando base to help with "something". Upon our arrival we found out that we had to dig a hole to hold the sewerage from the toilets. Not the best experience. We returned to our tent and I went to the tuck shop again.

By now it was 15h04. We chilled for a bit and later went to fetch our next load of rations. We unpacked all the food and discussed our plan for the next few days before we set off for the commando base. Commando was okay. A few people struggled, but the patrol was supportive. The obstacle course consisted of a rope bridge, a groundsheet thrown over some bushes which created tunnels for us to crawl through, some ropes with wooden bases called "Tarzan swings", a tall net/



(Ed. South Peak Scouts hiked the magenta route. Scouts were transported along the red Route. Credit: - Map extract from Slingsby Maps with kind permission).

rope wall we had to climb over, a spider web where we had to dodge through strings, a horizontal rope ladder and, finally, a swim down the river. We completed this obstacle course while trying not to injure our two additional patrol members, namely Melanie the watermelon and Eggberg the egg. Afterwards Hannah, Lena, Daniel and Dylan did individual runs of the course and all did well. We sat outside the tent and ate mini cheddar bites while the astronomy base was being set up. Once the astronomy base was ready, we made hot chocolate and attended the

presentation. The astronomy base was interesting. We learnt about the various planets and moons in our solar system, about space debris and how satellites record the universe. After the presentation we went outside where two telescopes were set up. We looked at Jupiter and its four moons and at Saturn. We also saw a few shooting stars. We went back to our tent, packed our rations, filled our water bottles for the next day and prepared our bags so that we would be ready for an early start the next day. At 23h04 it was lights out for all of us.

DAY 5: We woke up cold at 05h00. We cleaned up, gathered our bags and set off at 05h57. We had to cross an "unexpected" river and some shoes got wet, but we continued. We hiked through Driehoek and had a short break at a private camping area. At 07h36 we stopped at a river and had breakfast which consisted of Weetabix with hydrated milk powder, syrup and Salticrax. We continued along the tarred road and into a cloud of mist where we met another patrol who advised us to stay on the road and not take the trail. We hiked on and had a quick break at 10h47 where we had water and some snacks. Later we saw another patrol who gave us tips as regards the upcoming path. Eventually, Daniel shouted that we had cell service! We checked to see who had won the World Cup. Most of us were happy as Argentina had won. By now it was 11h20. We saw another patrol who passed us and we met them again later at the bottom just before the bricked road to Algeria. We had another quick break before we continued hiking. Some of us had hurting feet. When we arrived at Algeria at around 14h00, Dylan bought us Cokes and Doritos. While we were eating lunch which consisted of tuna on Salticrax, a staff member came to collect us to take us to Grootkloof. There we swam and made pizza surrounded by swarms of friendly bees which were attracted to the flour. The pizza was good and afterwards we played "Exploding Kittens". We went for a second swim and I had a scratch in the food swop-box. Some of the patrol members went off to shower and then we all went to bed at 21h39.



DAY 6: We woke up at 05h57 and had oats and syrup for breakfast. We packed our gear and boarded the transport bus/overlander,

which was late, and departed for Grootkloof at 07h39. We listened to music on the crowded vehicle. We arrived at Algeria Campsite at 08h07 and I bought some liquorice for later. We hiked through Algeria and met Fulu's parents who were camping there. Thereafter we started the hike up to Middleberg hut. We crossed a river, took a few breaks and hiked some more to an area with a gentler gradient where we rested. By now it was 11h20. We arrived at Middelberg hut at around 12h30. There we met another patrol (the 9th/16th Cape Town adult patrol) who had apparently seen a boomslang fall from the tree that they were sitting under.

Lunch consisted of Melrose and corned meat with Provitas and this we enjoyed next to the river near the hut. Thereafter, most of the patrol went for a swim. We decided that it would be better to continue hiking that very evening so we would have less hiking to do the next day which was expected to be hot. We left Middleberg hut at around 17h30 after a nap and eventually arrived at Eenboomkamp where we saw the Cape Town 9/16th patrol once again. They told us they would be leaving at around 03h00 the following day and we should sleep away from them so as to not disturb them. We moved to another tree where we ate cold couscous with mixed vegetables and chickpeas while listening to Christmas music. It was 21h22.

DAY 7: We woke up at 05h00 to a very windy day. I saw a scorpion. We left Eenboomkamp at 06h07. We had a breakfast of digestive biscuits with Weetabix along the trail near some large rocks at 07h44. Thereafter we hiked some more, passed a gravesite (of P.L. Du Toit 9 December 1871-1888 and a nameless grave) and met a few groups of non-scouting people on their way down while we were having a break near a stream. Later on we met a patrol which was hiking from Welbedacht cave to the Dutch oven base at Perdekloof. We had a break a bit later on before beginning the steeper portion of the ascent. We arrived at Welbedacht cave at around 15h00 after an exhausting hike in the heat. Some people struggled to finish the climb, but in the end we all made it. Some of us went back to carry the bags of tired patrol members. We ate lunch which consisted of Provitas and Salticrux with Melrose and corned meat and had a rest. The other patrol that would be staying with us in the cave arrived shortly afterwards. We made a supper of couscous with canned tomato, canned viennas and corned meat, watched the sunset and packed our stuff for the early start the following morning. We went to bed at 21h31 hoping the mice wouldn't chew through our bags.

DAY 8: We woke up at 04h00, packed our gear while listening to some upbeat music and set off for Tafelberg at 04h56. We saw leopard tracks along the way. We stopped at a turnoff to have breakfast and unpacked all necessary kit for our hike



up Tafelberg. We hiked up Tafelberg and arrived at the Vlake at 06h53 where we met the patrol we had shared the cave with. We waited for the rock climbing staff to meet us. The staff arrived and we hiked further to the rock climbing base, stopping along the way so that Paul, a rock climbing staff member, could give us information about the rocks and the mountains. We did the rock climbing activity first while the other patrol hiked up to the trig beacons. To get to the rock climbing base we had to pass through some narrow spaces. We arrived at the rock climbing base at 08h30. This was a fun-filled activity! There were two courses we could choose between, the one more difficult than the other. Dylan was the only one to choose the difficult course which he completed on his first try. Once we had finished climbing to the top, we had to cross a small ravine using ropes to pull ourselves across (Ed. A Tyrolean traverse) and then abseil down a rock face.

We were done at around 10h00 and so we took off our climbing gear and hiked up to Tafelberg's highest trig beacons. There were parts where we went through caves and we even had to use a chain to get up a steep rock wall at the end of another ravine. We reached the top at 11h00 and there we found several ponds from which we filled up our water bottles. We also collected a few rocks and held them above the highest trig beacon for a photo. At the end of the hike we had to help carry the rock climbing equipment back down again. It took a while but we eventually got back to where our bags were. We passed Welbedacht cave and had a rest at the small river where we had been the previous day. We swam and relaxed. By now it was 15h30. The rest of the patrol, who were a bit behind a few of us, eventually joined us and, after a well-deserved rest, we continued.

We met up with the rock climbing staff and the patrol that was ahead of us at the parking lot. There the rock climbing staff took our bags and transported them to the pickup point. We walked the final three kilometres and arrived at the pickup location, namely Moutonsklip turnoff to Driehoek, where we piled into a Landrover and a bakkie and drove back to HQ at Keurbos. It was now 17h03. We stopped at Algeria, bought some snacks and continued to Keurbos. We arrived at Keurbos at around 18h15, tired but relieved. We helped unpack the rock climbing equipment at the warehouse from which we had departed earlier on. The adventure was finally



coming to an end. We met up with some familiar faces once again and shared a few stories. Some of us got patched up at the first aid tent. Soon it was suppertime and then we were allocated jobs for the following morning's clean-up operation. We were the first patrol to be allocated jobs and most of us got to pack away the kitchen. We ate a delicious supper of boerewors rolls, mixed salad, potato salad, a piece of meat and a cold drink; all sponsored by Spar. After supper we washed our dishes and played cards near the flagpoles. Later on we moved our bags, set out our sleeping gear and went to bed at 22h07.

DAY 9: We woke up early once again, but for the last time, at 04h50 to be ready to pack up the kitchen at 05h00. Everyone was cold and a bit slow but eventually we moved all the kitchen equipment and took down the two kitchen tents. Soon our work was done and we moved off to chill for a while. We played cards (Uno Flip) with the Cape Town 9th/16th patrol and, after a lot of waiting, we changed into our uniforms to be ready for the closing parade.

Thankfully, the closing ceremony was short and, finally, we were able to depart at around 11h30.

If you are reading this to gain insight on what to expect from a Senior Scout Adventure, here are some notes and tips from the patrol:

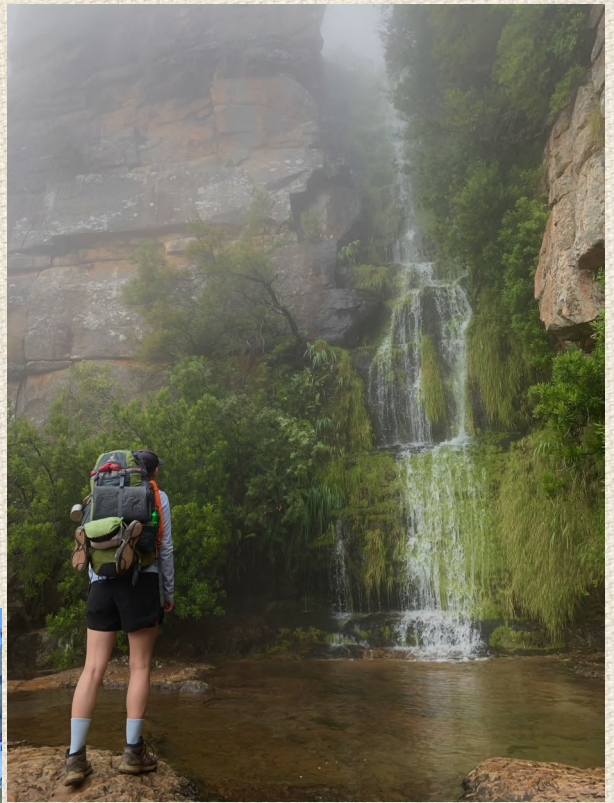
- Water purifying tablets/drops are extremely important! Some scouts got sick from the water they had drunk and were unable to continue the adventure. Rather be safe than sorry.
- Water additives are great to have on the hike. Game and Rehydrate are some of the best and they don't add much weight.

- Some form of muscle relief, like arnica cooling gel, can be helpful if you have aching muscles.
- Bring hand sanitizer and wet wipes.
- Snacks are provided by the adventure, but bring your own as you may want something more to eat or you may possibly not like all of the food that is provided. Rather bring too much than too little. If you realise that you have over packed, you can leave stuff behind at HQ.
- Duct tape and a needle and thread can be used to fix tears in clothes, shoes or bags. It can also be used for other quick repairs or for holding stuff together.
- Line your backpack with a plastic bag and also pack small things together in Ziplock bags. We weren't expecting rain, but it rained on the first day and our bags got soaked and so did much of our kit. A bag liner also makes it much easier to find things, especially when packing and unpacking your bag on the hike. Storing items in clear zip lock bags ensures that they remain dry and can more easily be found. Don't forget about your sleeping bag! Store it in a smaller plastic shopping packet. Also make sure that your bag has a rain cover.
- Swimming costumes aren't necessary; a pair of quick-drying shorts will do just fine, but remember to pack a quick-dry towel.
- A digital copy of the route can be helpful. Apps such as Mapy, Forge and Komoot all work well. I used Komoot to plan and record our journey. It was extremely useful on the trail to verify our location and to make sure that we were on the right path. It also helped us to see how much further we had to hike and to note the expected time it would take us to get there.
- If you plan on using your phone, bring along a large solar-powered power bank.

Overall, the Cederberg Senior Scout Adventure was an incredibly worthwhile and rewarding experience which I certainly hope to do again in the future. I highly recommend it!

Keagan Coetzee - Scout 1st Durbanville (16 years old)





campsites of a previous era

Scouts camp at Sandy Bay!

In the early and mid-20th Century the Sandy Bay area was and one of the last stretches of unspoiled coastline near Cape Town. Quiet remote with difficult access, either via Llandudno from a short gravel road to a few beach cottages and then a bushwack to the campsite or from Hout Bay that was equally challenging.



This of course was before it became a nudist colony. By contrast, in the very early years of Scouting boys and men wore full bathing suits that covered the whole torso. Sandy Bay was a very popular venue for many groups from around the peninsula. The Sea Point groups in particular and this included Cubs, Scouts and Rovers would use this campsite for anything from a simple picnic to advanced first aid, camping and campfires.

Occasionally it was the site for their Toc-H district competition. Quoting from one team: - We selected a campsite, pitched camp and started making four bivouacs part of a test. At about 5.30 p.m. we started doing tests and at 8 o'clock our supper (Hunters Stew and Rice Pudding) was served. Sadly, our campfire item flopped because the noise of the sea made hearing difficult and our subtle dialogue did not produce the necessary effect.

The Glen, Camps Bay

This was another nearby campsite which was popular with groups from all over the peninsula. However, for the Sea Point Troops it was virtually 'in their backyard'. They would pack their Trek Cart on a Friday afternoon with all the necessary equipment for a week end camp. This included tents, food and all sorts of heavy Scouting paraphernalia and then - they would merely with manpower or boy power physically like a team of oxen, pull the cart all the way to the Glen.



In 1946 and 1947 the Gordon Shield was held there and over a long period many a Saturday was spent in the Glen test passing for both Cubs and Scouts.

Wit Els, Ceres

The Wit Els Scout campsite was in Michell's Pass near the town of Ceres and was situated below the pass at the confluence of the Wit and Dwars rivers.

The person instrumental in obtaining the lease for the campsite was Ceres Chemist and Scoutmaster, John Henry Fox 'Scorp'. Although there are records of the site being used from 1939, it was in 1942 he approached the Ceres Municipality for permission for the Scouts to use the site and negotiated a lease at £1 per annum. Scorp Fox was the first warden, a position he held for 16 years until 1958.

In the 1957 Cape Western Annual Report, the Wit Els campsite was described as "very popular and is indeed a delightful place. It is in natural surroundings and is typical of Cape Western in its unspoiled state - even to the baboons and muishonde that raid our camp pantries".

Many hundreds of Scouts spent happy Annual Camps at the Wit Els Scout Camp Site, many went back two or three times and some took their patrols there for camps. What happy memories they all have of that fascinating area.

With the closing of the campsite in 1961 the editor of the Cape Western Scouter



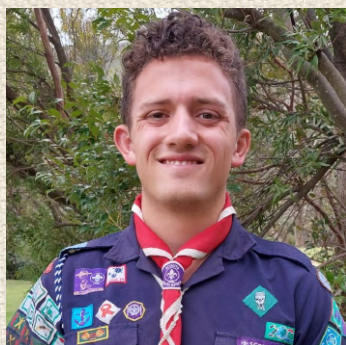
commented "I camped there for the first-time way back in 1942 and since then have spent over two hundred nights in camp there, so for me the thought that I shall never camp there is a sad one.

There were of course many beautiful, rudimental and no-frills basic campsites in the early days of Scouting and these are just a few you may not have heard of.

Stuart Ravenscroft – The Archivist Scout Heritage Centre

springbok scouts

We congratulate our latest Springbok Scouts who are:



Ethan Stopforth

1st Blaauwberg



Josh Vincent

2nd Bergvliet



Kaylee Fittock

Durbanville Kraaifontein

Springbok Scouts complete three activities which are evaluated at Regional level. These are perhaps the most challenging of all the Springbok activities for the Scout to complete and are:

- **Major Project** which involves one of Pioneering, Construction, Boating, Flying, Climbing, Food for Life, Banquet or Wildlife training.
- **Expedition** which is a 30km hike over unknown-to-the Scout terrain and
- **Community Service Project** which demands a 30 hour project.

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